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1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
2	DISTRICT OF MASSACHOSETTS
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4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
5) CR No. 03-40034
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	CAROL EVANGELISTA)
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10	BEFORE: The Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton
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12	DISPOSITION
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15	United States District Court Courtroom No. 2
16	595 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608
17	Tuesday, February 24, 2004 3:15 P.M.
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20	Cheryl Dahlstrom
21	Official Court Reporter Moakley United States Courthouse
22	One Courthouse Way, Room 3209 Boston, MA 02210
23	Mechanical Steno - Transcript by Computer
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APPEARANCES: OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY By: Mark Balthazard, AUSA One Courthouse Way Boston, Massachusetts 02210. On Behalf of the Government. GOULD & ETTENBERG By: Peter L. Ettenberg, Esq. 370 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts 01608. On Behalf of the Defendant. INDEX Testimony of: Direct Cross Redirect Recross JOHN DAIGNAULT by Mr. Balthazard by Mr. Ettenberg

PROCEEDINGS

(CONFERENCE IN LOBBY AS FOLLOWS:

THE COURT: For the record, we're in the lobby. I've asked counsel and the probation officer to come because I want to give them a head's up on what I'm thinking before we start. This could be a lengthy and contentious hearing, and I'm trying to avoid that. Maybe I won't be able to. But I want to tell you what my thinking is now. We are in the lobby, and, as I've said before, this is being recorded by my court reporter.

I have read the papers very carefully, all of the pleadings, and Doctor Daignault's report. And I've considered all of the ramifications of Mrs. Evangelista's marriage and the problems in this life. And I am convinced that she needs to go to jail for her crime, but I don't think she ought to go to jail for 18 months. I think she ought to go to jail for some time in between those two numbers.

And the way that I have decided to proceed is, first of all, I do not believe there is sufficient evidence to warrant downward departures either for aberrant behavior or for diminished capacity. I don't think she had a diminished capacity, as I understand that reason for downward departure. I don't think this was aberrant to the extent that it was over an extended period of time. She's an intelligent woman. But

she was overborne, it seems to me, by her husband, and she does deserve some sort of consideration.

Therefore, I have determined that I will accept all of the recommendations that Probation has offered me for offense levels and so on except the two-level increase for the ten victims, which counsel may be aware of -- hopefully, I have the right section here. It's 2B1.1, Application Note 3(A)(ii) which states, "Victim means: 1), any person who sustained any part of the actual loss determined under Section (b)(1)."

I have determined that the victims, that is, the creditors of this bankrupt, did not actually sustain actual loss since they are going to be reimbursed — either have been or are going to be. I must be assured that they are going to be reimbursed. And in that event, the two-level increase under 2B1.1(b)(2)(A) —

MR. ETTENBERG: What was that again?

THE COURT: It's 2B1.1(b)(2)(A)(ii).

MR. ETTENBERG: Okay. Paragraph 20.

MR. BALTHAZARD: Paragraph 20 of the PSR.

THE COURT: -- which talks about adding two levels if more than ten victims are involved. If I don't add those two points, I end up with a total offense level of 13, with a sentencing range of 12 to 18 months, and I intend to sentence at the low end, 12 months and one day.

Now, counsel can proceed and try to dissuade me of that conclusion, but that's where I am now.

MR. ETTENBERG: Okay.

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THE COURT: I don't think that Mr. -- is it Mr. or Doctor --

MR. ETTENBERG: Doctor.

THE COURT: -- Doctor Daignault is going to convince me that this particular Mrs. Evangelista suffers from an impaired mental capacity.

MR. ETTENBERG: I can tell you, Judge -- and I'll save what I'm going to say out in the courtroom. But just to give you the head's up like you've given us, that isn't my strongest argument, and it wouldn't be, in trying to get you to the departure area. I would have focused and I would still focus on the aberrant behavior aspect of it, and I have some arguments to make for that.

I can't disagree with you with regard to your perception of Doctor Daignault. I don't think it rises to the clear diminished capacity, and I don't even think he'd say that if Mr. Balthazard asked him. I think his report is more an overview of what he perceived her mental status to be and what it is now and what types of things she was going through at the time of all of this and then just come to his conclusions and make his recommendations for further treatment and counseling and things like that.

I wasn't really going to focus on the diminished capacity aspect. I absolutely agree it's not --

THE COURT: It seemed that your -- well, maybe I'm telescoping the two sets of briefs. It seems that the briefs spent a lot of time on that diminished capacity.

MR. ETTENBERG: It did because -- I agree with that.

But I don't think that's my strongest argument, quite frankly.

I've also -- just so you can know, I've talked to Mr. Balthazard this afternoon, and I'm prepared to concede, for whatever it's worth in here, the arguments on role in the offense and the -- which guideline manual should apply. I had made those arguments and made objections --

THE COURT: You mean that she's not entitled to a four-level reduction for minimal participation and/or that it's the 2001 guideline that applies, not the 2003?

MR. ETTENBERG: Yes.

THE COURT: That saves us some time. Mr. Balthazard, did you want to say anything in this regard?

MR. BALTHAZARD: I think I'm going to want to think about it for a few minutes as to whether it makes sense to --

THE COURT: Put Mr. Daignault on?

MR. BALTHAZARD: -- put him on or not. I'm not sure.

I think I'd like an opportunity to speak to Mr. Ettenberg

outside a few minutes to see how it might proceed.

THE COURT: I'll give you a few minutes. Anything

- light of the conference, we would be able to keep it fairly brief.
- THE COURT: Then Doctor Daignault will please come forward.

JOHN DAIGNAULT, Sworn

THE CLERK: Please be seated. Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: Sure. My name is John Daignault. The name is spelled D-A-I-G-N-A-U-L-T.

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BALTHAZARD:

- Q. Good afternoon, Doctor Daignault.
- 12 A. Good afternoon, sir.
- 13 Q. Thank you for coming today.
- Now, can you tell us, first, what psychological
- disorder Ms. Evangelista currently suffers from?
- 16 A. Currently?
- 17 Q. Yes.

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- 18 A. Major depressive disorder.
- 19 Q. When did it start exactly?
- 20 A. I would estimate that it started in or around the year of
- 21 2000.
- 22 Q. But you're not sure?
- 23 A. I'm not positive in terms of ascribing a certain date,
- 24 no. That wouldn't be possible.
- 25 | Q. You were contacted in December of 2003 by Fran Bowman to

- 2 A. No.
- Q. Okay. How were you initially contacted to get involved
- 4 in this case?
- 5 A. I was contacted by Fran Bowman but not for the purpose of
- 6 preparing a report, for the purpose of evaluating Miss
- 7 Evangelista.
- 8 O. How was that contact undertaken?
- 9 A. That's a good question.
- 10 Q. Does that mean --
- 11 A. It may have been by a telephone call.
- 12 Q. It was not the email you received in December?
- 13 A. That was subsequent to what I believe was a telephone
- 14 call.
- Q. Had you done work with Fran Bowman before this case and
- 16 | since she left the Probation Office?
- 17 | A. Let's see. I think that's a two-prong question. I may
- 18 | have actually dovetailed with her on occasions when she was in
- 19 the Probation Office. I've had the occasion to be asked by
- 20 her on perhaps three or four occasions to evaluate clients.
- 21 Q. In connection with sentencings?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 O. You charged approximately the same fee for each one of
- 24 | those?
- 25 A. Same hourly fee, yes. I haven't gone up on my fees since

- 1 I've known her, no.
- Q. And you expect -- your plan or hope is to continue to get
- 3 | referrals from Fran Bowman in similar types of cases?
- 4 A. Well, I'm very busy but I wouldn't say no to a referral.
- 5 | Q. How far a drive was it from your office to get out here?
- 6 A. I'd say about an hour and a half.
- 7 Q. When you met with Ms. Evangelista, did she meet you in
- 8 your office?
- 9 | A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. Were you aware that when Ms. Bowman first contacted you
- 11 that Ms. Evangelista was already seeing another mental health
- 12 professional, Catherine Davis, in Worcester?
- 13 | A. I don't recall if Fran Bowman told me that, but Miss
- 14 | Evangelista told me that.
- 15 Q. Your evaluation of Ms. Evangelista did not include any
- independent tests, did it, such as the M.M.P.I.?
- 17 A. Did not include any psychological tests such as the
- 18 M.M.P.I.
- 19 Q. That is a test that you're familiar with?
- 20 A. It is.
- 21 | Q. And that you've given in the past to other defendants?
- 22 A. In certain cases, yes.
- 23 Q. In preparing your report, you did no independent
- 24 investigation as to what Ms. -- as to whether what Ms.
- 25 | Evangelista had told you about her marriage and divorce was

- 1 | true?
- 2 A. No, sir, that's not correct.
- 3 Q. What independent investigation did you do?
- 4 A. I asked for collateral sources of information, and I
- 5 received them from three family members, a friend and her
- 6 employers, for the purpose of verifying information.
- 7 Q. Those letters were pretty much confined to the period
- 8 during which she was going through the divorce, is that
- 9 | correct?
- 10 A. You mean when they were written?
- 11 Q. No, the period of time in which they describe her
- 12 | condition, if you will, or her behavior.
- 13 A. No, I don't -- that would not be my recollection of those
- 14 letters necessarily, no.
- 15 Q. Did they describe particular instances of interaction
- between Ms. Evangelista and her ex-husband?
- 17 A. I don't recall at the moment.
- 18 Q. The letters speak for themselves?
- 19 A. They do. Yes, I relied on them as they were written,
- 20 yes.
- 21 | Q. You didn't contact her ex-husband, did you?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. You do recognize that he might have a different view as
- 24 to the facts and circumstances of the marriage?
- 25 A. He might. I do a fair amount of probate and family court

- 1 | work. I would expect that.
- Q. That's typically the case, that the husband and wife
- 3 | don't necessarily see eye to eye as to the way the marriage
- 4 progressed?
- 5 A. Particularly cases that would come to my referral, yes,
- 6 | that would be true.
- 7 Q. In the course of preparing your report and reaching your
- 8 conclusions, did you review the bankruptcy documents that Ms.
- 9 Evangelista signed?
- 10 A. No. I relied upon the government's version of the
- 11 events. I didn't see that attached.
- 12 | Q. Did you listen to the tape of the bankruptcy meeting of
- 13 | creditors in which she testified?
- 14 A. No. Again, I relied on the government's version of the
- 15 events.
- 16 | Q. Do you not think that it might have been helpful to
- actually hear her in the process of committing the offense to
- 18 be able to evaluate what she told you happened?
- 19 A. Well, to be honest, I've come to find the government's
- 20 | version of offenses to be rather thorough, so I guess no.
- 21 | O. So actually listening to her voice, the tone in her
- 22 | voice, how she answered questions, the demeanor that you could
- 23 | have picked up actually listening to her, you say it would
- 24 | have made no difference to you in any conclusions you drew?
- 25 A. I didn't say no difference. I said I've learned to rely

- on the government's version of offenses. I find them to be thorough and helpful.
 - Q. So you have no idea how she sounded during that proceeding?
 - A. No, I don't.

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- Q. You don't believe the government's version actually described how she sounded during the tape?
- 8 A. Not to my recollection, no.
- 9 Q. You stated in your report that it was your clinical view
 10 that certain elements of what is known as Battered Women's
 11 Syndrome were operative in her mental functioning to the
 12 extent that she perceived her husband as fully in control and
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. You're not saying that she actually suffered from Battered Women's Syndrome, are you?

herself as helpless and powerless, in effect?

- A. No. I'm saying that there are elements of that

 condition, as we know it as a syndrome, that are present in

 her psychological functioning, as you read.
- Q. There was -- I gather from your report that there were no allegations of physical abuse in the marriage?
- 22 A. No, sir. That's correct.
- Q. You understand, do you not, that all of the offense conduct in connection with her crime took place after the marriage?

- A. All of the offense conduct, yes, I do.
- Q. When she was -- you understand that that was when she was
- 3 | no longer under her husband's control and able to make her own
- 4 | choices as to what actions she would or would not take?
- 5 A. From a psychological standpoint, I would not agree with
- 6 | that statement. I'm sure that's true legally but not in my
- 7 | world or my analysis of her.
- 8 Q. Did you contact Ms. Evangelista's divorce attorney?
- 9 A. I did not.

- 10 | Q. She alleges that her divorce attorney was involved in and
- 11 encouraged her to commit bankruptcy fraud, is that correct?
- 12 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 13 | O. Did she provide a rationale as to why her own divorce
- 14 attorney would have counseled her to commit a federal felony?
- 15 A. No. I wouldn't expect someone I was evaluating to know
- 16 | what would be in the mind of an attorney. What she described,
- 17 | as I outlined in my report, were a series of meetings that
- were held between her husband's attorney and her attorney
- 19 apparently at the Probate and Family Court office. And she
- 20 described, as I outlined in my report, what the conversations
- 21 | were as she recalled them.
- 22 Q. Did you question her as to why she thought her divorce
- 23 | attorney would have advised her and encouraged her to commit a
- 24 | federal felony?
- 25 A. No. I did not ask her that specific question.

- Q. You didn't consider questioning whether that, in fact, took place was important to do?
- A. Well, it's important. But what's important from a

 psychological standpoint is what the individual perceives and

 experiences about the events that take place in their life.
- And that's the bottom line with respect to my diagnosis of her.

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- Q. Is it your opinion that Ms. Evangelista was unable to understand that what she was doing was wrong or exercise the power of reason when she committed her events?
- A. I think she was impaired in that capacity by a major depressive disorder, significantly impaired.
- Q. Was she or was she not able to understand that what she was doing was wrong?
- A. Well, sometimes -- I can't answer that yes or no. I would have to explain.
- 17 Q. So you cannot testify that your opinion is that she could not understand that what she was doing was wrong?
 - A. It's the -- I can't answer that one yes or no either.
 I'm sorry.
 - Q. You realize that when she signed the bankruptcy schedules that directly under her signature is a statement that says that the penalty for making a false statement or concealing property is a fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to five years or both and a citation to a federal criminal

- 1 | statute?
- 2 A. Yes. I read that in your office's offense conduct
- 3 version, I believe.
- Q. Is it your opinion that Ms. Evangelista was unable to control behavior that she knew was wrongful?
- 6 A. I can't answer that yes or no, with all respect.
- Q. You understand that she had access to funds when she was working at the tanning salon during that same period of time,
- 9 | right?
- 10 A. Did I know she had access to funds?
- 11 Q. Yes.
- 12 A. Yes. Her employers informed me of that, yes.
- Q. So you understand that she apparently was able to control
- her actions and not steal funds from her employer?
- A. Her employers indicated in their letter that she was
- regarded as very trustworthy, and they never seemed to have
- 17 | that problem with her.
- 18 Q. That record indicated that she clearly, during that
- 19 period of time, understood the difference between right and
- 20 wrong and was able to control her conduct and conform it to
- 21 | the law?
- 22 A. It certainly would imply that in that situation. Her
- 23 behavior otherwise would be aberrant.
- 24 O. Excuse me?
- 25 A. Her behavior other than that would be aberrant.

MR. BALTHAZARD: No further questions, your Honor.

THE COURT: Cross-examination, Mr. Ettenberg.

MR. ETTENBERG: Thank you, Judge.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. ETTENBERG:

- Q. Doctor Daignault, before I forget, Mr. Balthazard asked you about the wrongfulness of Miss Evangelista's conduct. You said you couldn't answer it yes or no. Could you explain for the Court what you meant by that and what your answer would be?
- A. Well, it's the age-old problem of the difference between psychology and the law. The law tends to -- in my forensic training, tends to look and need to look at things in black and white, more of an absolute way. Somebody is guilty or not guilty, black or white. Whereas, psychology has the focus on a wide range of ambiguity in human behavior as well as the motivation having more than one source -- motivation for one's behavior having more than one source. So it's not always easy to answer yes or no in absolute terms.

What I was trying to say is that there's clearly -from a psychological standpoint, there's clearly an
impairment, because of her major depressive disorder, in her
understanding that what she did was wrong. There's no
question in my mind that there was an impairment, significant
impairment, in her ability. And so that's what I was trying
to say in answering his question. I couldn't answer it yes or

1 no.

- Q. Does that also apply in your answer to his question with regard to her inability to control her conduct?
- A. Exactly, yes.
- Q. It's essentially based on her significant psychological impairment based on what was going on at the time of her divorce?
- A. At the time. Major depression is not sadness or

 bereavement, when someone has a loss or some sadness that we

 -- that human beings all go through. Major depression, one of

 the classic symptoms, is an impairment in concentration,

 making rational decisions, making appropriate and sound

 decisions, being able to concentrate. There are significant

 impairments in those capacities.

So at that point in time, those impairments, in my judgment, impaired her capacity to make sound judgments, understand what she was doing, and control her behavior.

- Q. Having that severe depression and the impairment in her cognitive abilities and her abilities to understand what was happening and to prevent it from happening, would you agree that that could lead to somebody doing something that they might otherwise do -- might otherwise not do? I'm sorry.
- A. We see that all the time. People end up in our offices because they engage in behavior that is aberrant from their norm as a result of a major psychological impairment. It

- 1 | might be depression. It might be a different type of mental
- 2 disorder. But that's why they end up -- well, either --
- 3 | oftentimes, in front of the honorable courts or in
- 4 psychologists' offices, because they have engaged in that type
- of behavior as a result of a mental condition.
- 6 Q. So that it's clear, nobody here is claiming, and you're
- 7 certainly not claiming, that Miss Evangelista suffered from a
- 8 | mental illness, is that correct?
- 9 A. Well, now you're getting into terminology that I would
- 10 | need to question what you mean by that.
- 11 Q. Well, she wasn't insane?
- 12 A. That's also a legal term. I'm awfully sorry.
- 13 Q. Okay. Let me see if I can ask it another way. She was
- able -- she was able to get through a day and function, is
- 15 | that correct?
- 16 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 17 Q. She could go to work. She could function appropriately
- at work and deal with customers and deal with her employers,
- deal with her friends and her neighbors on a daily basis, is
- 20 | that correct?
- 21 A. People with -- yes, that's correct. People with various
- 22 types of mental disorders appear to go through life being able
- 23 | to carry out their -- often able to carry out their usual
- 24 functions.
- Q. And, yet, still suffer from this severe depression?

A. Absolutely.

- 2 Q. And this severe depression, when you say that it impairs
- 3 | their cognitive abilities and capacities, is there any way
- 4 that you can assist the Court in defining that better and give
- 5 us maybe an example of that?
- 6 A. Major depression strips the individual of motivation, of
- 7 | energy, of hope, of the capacity to feel that they can have --
- 8 exert plans in their life, carry out actions in their life
- 9 | that are productive. It reduces the individual to the level
- of not being able to have hope and promise for their present
- 11 or their future.
- 12 That is a cognitive distortion because normal human
- 13 beings know, as we all sit here today, that we have power to
- 14 make decisions, to carry out plans, to have hope for the
- 15 future, to be able to make headway in our lives, accomplish
- 16 | things. That's the normal state of mind. But someone with a
- 17 | major depression doesn't have that ability. It's lost because
- 18 of the mental disorder.
- 19 Q. In preparing your report, did you speak with Catherine
- 20 Davis?
- 21 A. I did not.
- Q. Were you aware that Miss Evangelista was seeing Catherine
- 23 | Davis not for an evaluation but for therapeutic reasons, to
- 24 | assist her in dealing with this legal process?
- 25 A. What I know about her is that Miss Evangelista told me

she had consulted this therapist because of the stress she was experiencing with regard to this matter, if that answers your question.

- Q. Right. It wasn't for her to prepare some report that goes back in time?
- A. Oh, no. It was for counseling.

- Q. Counseling. And would it -- do you normally conduct an independent investigation, go out and interview people in these evaluations?
 - A. I normally receive collateral information that might be available to the extent that that helps to verify or not verify the subject's discussion with me. Cases vary in what might be available.

In this particular case, I had a good deal of information available from the collateral sources that I mentioned to your brother counsel.

- Q. You mentioned that your evaluation of Miss Evangelista led you to conclude that there were elements of a Battered Women's Syndrome?
- A. Yes, the elements, the hopelessness, the helplessness, the ineffectiveness upon her environment as a result of what she perceived to be her relationship with the husband.
- Q. A Battered Women's Syndrome doesn't require physical contact, does it?
- A. No, it does not. There's a lot of discussion in our

literature about psychological types of Battered Women's Syndrome, being bona fide Battered Women's Syndrome. But I answered your brother counsel by saying I did not diagnose her in any formal way with Battered Women's Syndrome. Her diagnosis is major depressive disorder.

As I mentioned to the Honorable Court a moment ago, there are overlaps in diagnoses. There's ambiguity in my science. I am saying that there are elements of Battered Women's Syndrome, but the primary diagnosis is major depressive disorder.

- Q. You were aware, were you not, that in this particular case a check, the divorce settlement check, in the amount of approximately \$110,000, ultimately went to Miss Evangelista's parents, minus some money. I think it was \$94,000, somewhere around there. Are you aware of that?
- A. Well, I believe father, actually, not parents.
- Q. Right. There was a check that went to her parents.

Are you also aware that that check never actually was handed to Miss Evangelista?

A. Yes. I'm aware of that and that was significant to my -MR. BALTHAZARD: I'm going to object to this.

THE COURT: Sustained. A little far afield, Mr. Ettenberg.

MR. ETTENBERG: There is a point to this, Judge, and I can just get right to it.

THE COURT: All right.

- Q. Is there any significance to the fact -- in the overall opinion with regard to Miss Evangelista's mental condition, is there a significance to the fact that the check never went through her --
- A. Yes.

- Q. -- physically? What is that significance?
- A. In my world, this is a prime illustration of the cognitive distortion: out of sight, out of mind. She, in her mental condition, actually cognitively experienced that the check never crossed her signature, her hands, her pathway. It was gone. And it was out of sight, out of mind.

Many times with Battered Women's Syndrome cases, people scratch their heads and say how could they keep doing something like that, keep going back. There is a cognitive distortion that exists as a symptom, in her case, of a major depressive disorder.

MR. ETTENBERG: Thank you, Doctor.

MR. BALTHAZARD: May I follow up just one area, your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, redirect.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BALTHAZARD:

Q. Are you aware that Ms. Evangelista, on a monthly basis, received \$1,000 in child support plus an additional \$1,000 from her ex-husband during the time she was going through the

- 1 bankruptcy?
- 2 A. It's a good question.
- 3 | Q. Are you aware of that?
- 4 | A. I am not --
- 5 Q. Are you or not?
- 6 A. I can't answer it yes or no.
- 7 | Q. Were you aware of it at the time you prepared your
- 8 report?
- 9 A. I want to answer you.
- 10 | O. Why don't you just answer it any way you want.
- 11 A. There is a discrepancy. I was aware of the \$1,000 child
- 12 support. I saw in your memorandum from your office about a
- 13 \$1,000 alimony. But Miss Evangelista indicates that there
- 14 | isn't \$1,000. That's what I was trying to say to you.
- 15 | Q. Are you aware that there were actually checks that were
- 16 | issued that went to her?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. And those went through her hands?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Are you aware that she did not disclose those in her
- 21 bankruptcy schedules?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. So she lied on her bankruptcy schedules about money that
- 24 | went directly through her hands?
- 25 A. Depending on what you mean by "lying." She was not